

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A friend of mine who is an ex-HCRA member is now working in Washington, D.C. His company has the government contract to read over all papers submitted in regards to W.A.R.C., and prepare the FCC position paper. Many interesting observations have been made because of this. He believes that we will be moved down in the 40 Meter band, most likely to 6980. (to 7280) A new band around 15Mhz will be created, but we will lose some of our UHF frequencies. 1290 Mhz will be gone for sure, as I.T.T. wants it. My friend commented that the papers sent in by hams were on the whole, excellent, with technical reasons given for continued government support, and well-thought out positions. On the other hand, manufacturers sent in mediocre papers, for all the money they have! Many hams are working on this FCC paper, and the League is also fighting for our spectrum space. You should never feel that there is "nothing you can do", because you are making a difference. Support of the A.R.R.L. and good operating manners means that Ham Radio will continue the way we like it.

If the report is not classified, I'll be sent a copy, and tell you more of what to expect in 1979.

73,

Jeff K1BE/ ex-WA1SNJ

ZERO BEAT - Issue 1

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

President	Jeffrey J. Duquette	K1BE	569-6739
Vice President	Bruce Felper	WA1PUX	(203) 232-1128
Treasurer	Steve Shore	WA1ZEV	(203) 232-1128
Secretary	Larry Soltz	WB1CJH	567-3444

NEXT MEETING

Friday, January 6th, 1978 7:30 PM

Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Feeding Hills, Mass

BANQUET REPORT

Our December meeting was a spaghetti supper at the Westfield YMCA to publicize ham radio and honor Percy Noble, W1BVR, on his retirement. A capacity crowd was there, including such notables as Ed Handy, and George Hart. The supper was good, although slow at times. The formal program began with a short prayer, (for his voice) by Jeff, K1BE, and a welcoming speech. Larry, WB1CJH, took over as M.C. and did an outstanding job. Bob, WA1DNB, presented a talk on the ARES and its' role in communication emergencies. Bill, W1JP, brought in his lightweight transceiver, and spoke on homebrewing. Many funny remarks, especially about the value of many small smoke tests while building instead of one big smoke test at the end!

George, W1ALL, visited us from MARS and let us in on the personal satisfaction he derives from message handling for servicemen all over the world. Bob, W1KUL, told us about the Field Day of 1954 on Wilbraham Mountain. We really "burned up" the airwaves that weekend, and the tower slides proved it.

Bunie Gordon, W1 UKR, was presented a plaque for over 25 years of hamming with our club. Tom, WA1MJE, spoke on what excites him in traffic handling. Are we all sure that cw is more fun than 'phone? Dick, W1QWJ, substituted for Jeff, and did a commendable job explaining OSCAR. This talk also had the most audience questions.

The program was turned over to John Sullivan, W1HHR, New England Division Director. He presented two special league awards to our good friend, Percy Noble, W1BVR. Perc has been in public service via amateur radio for over 42 years! His background history reads like a history of radio. Ed Handy, Bill Lowe, W1TM, George Hart, W1NJM, and other notables were there to congratulate Percy. George presented Percy with some "anti-freeze" from the Worcester Polytech Radio Club, and Read a radiogram from Art, W1KK. Even though we can not convey in a few paragraphs the real feeling of friendship at this dinner, it was there. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to get this ready. Our special wishes go to Percy Noble, W1BVR, for success in his new Endeavors!

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THIS ISSUE OF "ZERO BEAT" IS BEING TYPED AT THE LAST MINUTE ON A KIDDIE TYPEWRITER. JUST BEFORE WE WENT TO PRINT, THE COMPUTER MEMORY THAT CONTAINED THIS ISSUE DECIDED TO BURN UP! IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF A SUPERHUMAN EFFORT THAT WE GOT IT OUT AT ALL. BEAR WITH OUR POOR TYPING, PLEASE.



BAIRDS

↑
WITM L-R
KIBE
WIBVR
Ed Hardy
George Hart
WISP in Back



↑
KIBE, Jeff, left M
and WIUKR Eunie

← WIBVR, Percy left and
WIHR John Sullivan
from ARRL

January Meeting

Don't miss this meeting Friday, January 6th. Thanks to Larry, WB1CJH, we are having Tom McMullen, W1SL, speak on antennas for DX. If you've never heard Tom speak, he puts on a very interesting show. Free copies of "Ham Radio Horizons" to all present.

Frank Potts, WA1RWU, will speak briefly about the upcoming VHF Sweepstakes. Doors open at 7:30, meeting begins promptly at 8:00 PM.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

If you want to receive your QSL cards, you should have a large envelope with .26¢ postage on file with our QSL bureau. Address is in "QST". Eleanor Grey does a great job sorting thousands of cards every month... Bill Lowe, W1TM, is our new SCM as of January 1st. Address all of your reports to him now. Good luck, Bill... Tony, WA1YRA, is now W1YY... Al, WB1EMN, recently passed his General. F.B., Al. He uses a Drake TR-4, soon will be on 2 meters... Rich Kelleher, WA1QWI, became a Silent Key on Sunday, December 18th. In keeping with Rich's lifelong support of amateur radio, donations in his name can be made to the ARRL... Ron, WB1ETS, recently finished building a Heathkit SB-220. And it worked the first time he plugged it in!... Wa1DNB, Bob, will soon be on the air with a Triton Century 21. It's all cw, so maybe he's planning to upgrade soon... Bing, K1IQA, is in need of two 3B28's... Art, W1KK, wrote an article for our December ZB on our club station, W1NY. Word from the League tells us that it will be mentioned in the "Radio Club News", which goes out to all affiliate clubs. FB, ART... Bill, ex-WA1KFE, is now N1BA... The Provin Mountain Club meets at the Red Cross Building, 275 Maple Street, Springfield on January 9th. HCRA Prez, Jeff, will present the talk he did for us back in September on what's coming in electronics. The slide show on the Viking missions to Mars will also be shown. If you missed the first HCRA meeting of the year, or just want to see those beautiful color pictures of Mars again, plan on attending... Old members of the HCRA who have not renewed their memberships, we are still interested in what you are doing. Drop us a postcard... The FCC is strictly enforcing the 30 day rule for returning Novice exams. They are refusing to process exams returned late!... Jeff, ex-WA1SNJ, is now K1BE... W1UKR, Eunie, W1KUL, Bob, and W1KUE, Tom, represent over 106 years of amateur radio experience. Not bad for three youngsters!... Deadline for HCRA crossword puzzle is January 15th. Winner will be in next ZB... The next MTARA meeting is January 30th. They meet at the WMECO building on Cadwell Ave; Starts at 8:00 PM... You can join the HCRA by mailing \$500 to box 346, Southwick, Mass 01077... Bill, W1JP, works in research and has been pioneering in water conservation. He is trying to patent his unique bathtub, which not only conserves water but can double as a salad bowl!

OPERATING EVENTS

DECEMBER 31-JAN 1	STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT
JAN 14-22	KM1CC
JAN 21-22	VHF Sweepstakes
JAN 28-29	Simulated Emergency Test
Jan 29-30	Classic Radio Exchange

RADIO COURSES

A General license course will be taught by Norm Forest, N1PF, for 10-12 weeks at Putnam Technical High School in Springfield. Registration is 2nd and 3rd week of Putnam's Evening Division. ARRL License manual required for the course. Out of town residents, \$20.00, in town, \$10.00, Springfield Vets, Free. Contact N1PF for more information, 782-2126

MTARA CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Monday, December 19th, hordes of hams descended on the Ground Round in Chicopee for the Mt. Tom Christmas party. So many HCRA members were there that we could have had a board meeting! Cal, W1MDM, Heather, WB1ABF, Jean, K1IJB, BILL, W1JP, and many others won a nice door prize to take home. Free beer, good food, and lots of peanuts and popcorn were available.

Art, W1KK, had so many peanut shells on the floor under him that you would have thought an elephant was nearby! Dick, K1KEQ and Larry, W1WFR, took over the player piano and started banging out Christmas carols. With his voice Larry should be on the radio; at least then we could turn him off! Maurice, WB1FIP, AND Ron, WB1ETS, drank an entire pitcher of whiskey sours, much to Chet, K1YQQ's astonishment. Cal, W1MDM, Norm, N1PF, Dick, W1QWJ, and others swapped war stories.

Jack, WB1APD, and his XYL, Barb, WB1EHS, were fun to have an eyeball QSO with. The number of 1X2 calls is growing, judging by how many were at the party. .34/.94 was jumping on the way home. It was a fun party and a good time. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Everyone! Many thanks to the party organizers.

MORE MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Lou Ottman, WB1DLG, shot many pictures at our spaghetti supper. We have sent several photos into QST... VHF Sweepstakes logs will be available at our January meeting. Start planning your station now. Let us know early what you'll be needing... Ted, WB1CWF, Maurice, WB1FIP, and Art, WB1FIC, passed their Technicians... John, WB1CAD, passed his Advanced...

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW CLUB MEMBERS:

WB1DLV JIM
WB1EHS BARB
WA1UIV EDGAR
WA1YFQ AL
HUBERT W. SHARON

WA1LIS AL
WB1DTZ BERT
WB1DLE JOHN
W1LRA ALDEN
WB1EMN AL

GETTING OUR CLUB CALL ON THE AIR

On a recent Monday night HCRA 10 meter net, W1JP, Bill Hall, wanted to know why the net control station was not using our club call, W1NY. That started the ball rolling, and Art, W1KK, the trustee, and Jeff, K1BE, decided to get W1NY on the air. Photostats of the station license have been sent to designated net control stations, and they'll now be able to use it when running the HCRA net. If they want to use it in a contest, special permission must first be obtained from the station trustee, W1KK. Of course, the call can not be used except for HCRA related reasons. The class of the control operator's license will determine which frequencies you can use. Now our club call will be heard more often on the air. I'm sure Hank would be pleased.

FALL CLASSIC RADIO EXCHANGE

The Fall Classic Radio Exchange, sponsored by the Southeast Amateur Radio Club, K8EMY, Cleveland, Ohio, is open to all. Object is to restore, operate, and enjoy older equipment with like-minded hams. CX period 1800 UTC, Sunday, January 29, to 0100 UTC, Monday, January 30th. Call "CQ CX" on cw and "CQ Exchange" on 'phone. Suggested frequencies: cw up 60 khz from band edges; phone 3910, 7280, 14280, 21,380, 28580; Novices and Technicians, 3720, 7120, 22120, 28120.

Send logs, comments, pictures, etc to: Stu Stephens, K8SJ/exW8Kaj, 2386 Queenston Rd, Cleveland Hghts, Oh 44118. He's a good friend of Jeff, K1BE. For more information about the contest, call Jeff.

BROWN BAGGERS REPORT

Meeting every Friday at the Ground Round, West Springfield, at 11:30 for lunch. Ends when we run out of peanuts, popcorn, hamburgs, etc.

The BB were honored by the presence of Jeff, K1BE, the Prez of the HCRA. Congratulations, Jeff, on your new call. WA1DCH Rudy also honored us with his presence. Sorry, Rudy, understand that they did not peanut bomb you. They must have been out of peanuts! Have no fear, Rudy, some day the mad peanut bomber will get you with a hand full. Either that or WA1UGL, Dick, will fill your shirt pocket or beer mug from five feet away, with the accuracy of a sniper with a 30.06!

MORE

BROWN BAGGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

At an early November meeting WA1GUL, Dick, K1YQQ, Chet, K1GHL, Burt and WB1EMB, Joe did some hanger flying better known as story telling about some pretty funny or hairy happenings while flying small aircraft. With the exception of K1GHL, Burt, not sure who else still carries his license. But after a good meal and a little atmosphere, one could listen to these stories for hours.

At the last meeting of November we hear W1QJA, Bob, walked in wearing a wig. A grander woman you will never see and from what is heard he floored the whole group. So you see you can never be sure what will happen at Brown Baggers. That meeting was enjoyed by K1YQQ, Chet, W1NQG, Wes, WB1EHS, Barb, W1NLE, Bob, W1DVW, Bob, WA1WXS, Don, W1SB, Terry and his XYL, K1KBQ, DICK, WA1UGL, Dick, WA1DCH, Rudy, W1NPL, ED, K1GHL, Burt, W1RRW, Glen, WA1ZKT, Paul, WA1ORT, Ray, and WA1GUG, Dick!

TNX- WB1EMB

KM1CC

Special Event Station KM1CC will be on the air January 14-22. This is to celebrate Marconi's first wireless contact with Europe from Cape Cod, Mass. (More details in December QST, page 47.) A contingent from the HCRA will be going down to operate the station and help out. Art, W1KK is the organizer of it. We will be bringing down a six meter station and a six meter beam. Hope to see you all work us when we are down there.

STATION ACTIVITIES - WA1PUX

If you read QST you may follow a monthly regular, the STATION ACTIVITIES column. (See page 85 of December issue, Western Mass report is on page 121.) Without expressing my personal opinion, some people are in favor of dropping this column and using the space for technical and other more "pertinent" articles. Now is the time to make your voice heard. Write to the league and let them know what you think. If enough club members think that this is a worthwhile feature, the club could send in a letter to the League that will carry a lot of weight. The decision is yours!

NEW ENGLAND COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT

John Sullivan, W1HHR, is the League New England Division Director. If you don't like something the ARRL is planning or doing, John's the person to write to. (See article above) He doesn't mind getting some good words, too. Hopefully he'll be out to an HCRA meeting in 1978 and you can speak to him in person. Letters should be addressed to: Whitney Road, Columbia, Conn 06237. If you don't express your opinion, The League will never know what you think about things.

Marconi, Primo Wireless Amateur

As we prepare to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first two-way CW QSO between the U.S. at Cape Cod, and Poldhu, England by Guglielmo (William) Marconi, see page 47 Dec. 77 QST, let's look into a few aspects of this man's life and pioneering developments that definitely label him in my book as Radio Amateur #1.

An amateur Billy was indeed, since he received no formal academic or technical training. Like most present-day young hams one evening he quietly called his poetic Irish mother Annie Jameson to witness his first flush of success in their attic at Pontecchio, Italy. His dictatorial Italian father Giuseppe was not too fond of Billy's tinkering with all those jars and instruments up in the third floor, where in former times silk-worms did their stuff. Up there that night in 1894 as his mother watched, he tapped a telegraph key delicately with one finger, and lo-and-behold at the other end of the large double room a bell was set ringing, clear, but not much louder than the crickets in the background. Look Ma--- no wires!

From then on at age 20 he devoted his entire life to the many technical details necessary for practical two-way communication: people-to-people without wires. His friend and neighbor Professor Righi of Bologna provided invaluable scientific guidance. Meanwhile young Billy read all about Maxwell's mathematical prediction of electro-magnetic waves in space (1865), and of Heinrich Hertz's production and detection of radio waves in his lab at Karlsruhe Polytechnic (1887). Billy Marconi's favorites however, were the more practical contemporaries like Benjamin Franklin of Boston/Philadelphia fame, and Michael Faraday of London, the metallurgical, electromagnetic induction genius, who like Billy was self educated and endowed with exceptional mechanical skill and experimental vision. One thing about Billy though, he knew that the practical development of wireless telegraphy would be a great humanitarian achievement especially for people at sea and in remote lighthouse locations, and from his father he inherited an eye for a buck in business.

Like so many of us nowadays, Marconi had to resort to his junk-box for progress. He resurrected an old tank that had been used to store lamp oil and broke it up into two slabs of sheet iron. Using these in place of the big oscillator spheres, and with one on the ground and the other a considerable height above it the signal strength increased (a tankful) up to a mile or so, even over the side of a hill from Pontecchio when he delighted at hearing the shot his brother fired at hearing the signal in the "shadow", deep in the valley. To Billy this meant that unlike light waves, radio waves could and did travel up and down and around curves, as well as line-of-sight. The other junk-box occasion was in the construction of a magnetic tuning device for separating the rapidly multiplying number of wireless stations. He used some very thin wire used for tying up flowers to make his own "magnetic detector" patented in 1903 and later described as a "jewel of workmanship".

Field Days: Billy Marconi and his loyal technician helpers certainly had their share, in full compliance with Murphy's Law. At Poldhu in Sept 01, a sea gale wrecked the elaborate 20-mast inverted cone antenna of 400 wires 200 ft. long. Undaunted they made do with a simple fan sky hook between only two masts 170 ft. high supporting 60 wires. A few weeks later in Oct. at Cape Cod a terrific storm wiped out the nearly completed installation sending pine poles crashing thru the radio shack roof only a few feet from chief operator Vyvyan. Then in Dec. of that fateful year 01 they had the harrowing experiences on Signal Hill, St. Johns Nova Scotia where the antenna-supporting balloons kept breaking away in the wild north Atlantic

gales, and their kites bobbed up and down over the high cliff changing the antenna angle and direction. On this memorable occasion both Marconi and Kemp did hear the series of three dits (S) being sent on pre-arranged sked from Poldhu. After long last, the boy and his kites did succeed in logging signals across the 2170 miles of ocean, proving how radio waves serenely ignore the Earth's curvature.

Also prominent in Marconi's multi-faceted career are the international and human friendship aspects: native born and lifelong proud Italian, Irish Anglican mother, Billy himself married Bea O'Brien. In the festivities following the success at Glace Bay, four flags unfurled proudly side by side, those of Canada, Italy, the U. S., and Great Britain. Here's how a New York newspaper reporter described Billy as he landed on the pier for one of his early visits to introduce wireless in America: " * * * a serious, somewhat self-centered young man who spoke little but then always to the point * - - no bigger than a Frenchman and not older than a quarter century. He is a mere boy, with a boy's happy temperament and enthusiasm, and a man's nervous view of his life work. - - - When you meet Marconi you're bound to notice that he's a "for'ner". His suit of clothes is English. In stature he is French. His boot heels are Spanish military. His hair and moustache are German. His parents Irish-Italian. - - there's little doubt that Marconi is a thorough cosmopolitan.

So that's how it all began, gang. 73-Art WlKK

WANT ADS

Art
16 Dec 77

FOR SALE: 1,000 QSL cards for A.R.S. WA1SNJ Best Offer contact K1BE

FOR SALE: Murch UT 2000A Transmatch, Mint CX, \$125.00 Contact Jack WA1YYK
786-2556

FOR SALE: CDR Rotator AR22 Refinished, all new hardware \$40.00
Hornet 3el Triband beam with manual having difficulty loading, \$25. or BO
Jim Smith, W1REU, 5272503

WANTED YAESU FT 221R or FT221 for about \$450.00 Contact Jeff, K1BE 569-6739

WANTED: 432 MHZ and 144 Mhz equipment for setting up an OSCAR station
contact WA1PUX, Bruce at 1 203 232 1128 or write 24 Mountain View Rd,
West Hartford, Ct. 06117

WANT ADS

FOR SALE: Heathkit HW202 2 mtr Xcvr mobile mounting bracket, mike, manual. Xtals 34/94, 40/00 28/88 04/64 94/94 52/52 BO over \$130

Sonar model 2305 with charger, book. handie-talkie for 2 mtrs included external mic, 34/94 Xtal BO over \$100

Motorola MOCOM 30 136-174 Mc VHF Xcvr w/ power cord, mic BO over \$140

GE 6 mtr Progress Line w/ Xtals 52.525/ 52.525 BO. over \$40.

Signal Cords BC-603 tank radio 20-30 Mc Rcvr w/ preselectable push buttons built in 117 vac power supply excellent Cx

M-Tech Engineering, Inc 2 mtr amp 2 watts in, 22 out. best offer over \$30.

Heath HA201 2 mtr amp 4 months old, w/ book 1 watt in, 10 out best 0 over \$20. Contact Steve Shore WA1ZEV, 203 232 1128 or write him. (Same address as WA1PUX)

For Sale: Cush Craft VHF Twist 2 meter antenna, eleven elements verticla plus eleven horizontal. MercTronic Tachometer and ignition analyzer, model 67-100T, used to test gas engines. Full tank of propane all steel tank, standard fitting. call Bob, WA1VAH at 562-9447

FOR SALE: FT-301D plus power supply. Factory Checked, \$950.00 W1QWJ 413 267-5110

WANTED a 50 to 100 watt cw rig; 10-80 mtrs. VFO preferred call Cal Phillips, W1MDM on 34/94 between 6:30 and 7:30 AM

FOR SALE: CW readout on TV screen. Pinon Electronics system, 3 circuit boards (signal processor, decoder, video display) complete, as is, new. Easy hook up to your TV. Cost \$210, your price, \$110. Contact Hugh, W1PFW, 155 Amity St., Amherst, Mass 01002 413 549 5062

WANTED: National HRO or Collins 75 A-3 Rcvr Bob Wruck 567 5317

NOTICE: We now have an up to date membership list of paid up members. Free ads are for paid up members only. We will no longer accept ads from non-paid up people. Costs for an ad like these is \$1.00 per issue. TNX